

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed 03/18/2004. Claims 2, 4-23 and 28-30 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 4-13, 15, 16, and 19-23 have been amended, claims 1, 3, and 24-27 have been canceled and new claims 28-30 have been added. Favorable reconsideration of claims 2, 4-23 and 28-30 in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection 35 USC §112, ¶2

Claims 1, 4, 5, 15 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being improper Markush format claims. The applicants have amended claims 4, 5, 15 to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which they regard as their invention in a format other than Markush and claim 1 and 25 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 15 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 is solicited.

Claim Rejection 35 USC §103

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-19 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Gillings et al. (US Patent No.5,666,490) in view of Anderson et al. (US Patent No. 5,581,682). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been replaced with new claim 28. New claim 28 recites, *inter alia*, reading the customized document profile form, wherein the customized document profile form includes the customized set of identification data for selection; determining whether at least one identification data is selected on the customized document profile form; if so, creating a document record for the specific contract that includes the specific information corresponding to the at least one identification data in a

database of document records for contracts; and associating the electronic file with the document record in the database.

Gillings et al discloses an electronic document management system that converts documents into electronic images by scanning the documents. Information related to the documents are manually entered by double key data entry using the document. Gillings et al. does not teach, at least, reading the customized document profile form, wherein the customized document profile form includes the customized set of identification data for selection or determining whether at least one identification data is selected on the customized document profile form. Thus, Gillings fails to disclose or suggest all of the claimed elements recited in new claim 28.

Furthermore, the deficiencies identified in Gillings above, are not remedied by Anderson. Anderson merely discloses creating a digital version of a document. Anderson does not teach, at least, reading the customized document profile form, wherein the customized document profile form includes the customized set of identification data for selection or determining whether at least one identification data is selected on the customized document profile form. Thus, the combination of Gillings and Anderson fails to teach alone or in combination the limitation recited in new claim 1.

Currently pending claims 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-19, and 21-23 depend from new claim 28. Claims 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-19, and 21-23 are not taught alone or in combination for at least the reasons disclosed above. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 11, 20 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Gillings et al. (US Patent No.5,666,490) in view of Anderson et al. (US Patent No. 5,581,682) and Harris, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 6,144,975). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7, 11, 20 and 23 depend from claim 28. Claims 29 and 30 recite substantially similar limitations as claim 28. Claims 7, 11, 20 and 23 are not taught alone or in combination for at least the reasons disclosed above with respect to claim 28.

Furthermore, the deficiencies identified in Gillings and Anderson above, are not remedied by Harris Jr. Harris Jr. merely discloses a document management system. Harris Jr. does not teach, at least, reading the customized document profile form, wherein the customized document profile form includes the customized set of identification data for selection or determining whether at least one identification data is selected on the customized document profile form. Thus, the combination of Gillings, Anderson and Harris fails to teach alone or in combination the limitation recited in claim 28.

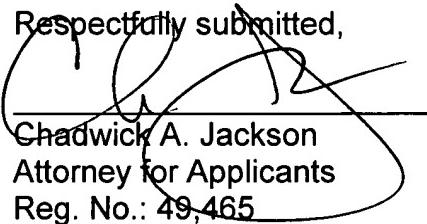
Claims 7, 11, 20 and 23 depend from claim 28. Claims 7, 11, 20 and 23 are not taught alone or in combination for at least the reasons disclosed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any reason related to the advancement of this case. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 referencing 19482.0002.

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Respectfully submitted,


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